



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

**NEWS**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Late-season Snow Extends Studded Tire Deadline**

OLYMPIA – March came in like a lamb and is going out like a lion, bringing officials from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) together to extend the studded tire deadline.\*

“With inclement weather still a concern, we believe it is in the best interest of the public to extend the deadline,” explained WSP Field Operations Bureau Captain Mike DePalma.

Typically, studded tires are only legal from Nov. 1- Mar. 31 because of safety considerations and the damage they cause to highways. Studded tires wear road surfaces at a higher rate than other tires, causing an estimated \$10 million in damages to state routes annually.

Though the deadline will extend through midnight April 11, WSDOT is urging motorists who are not traveling across the mountain passes to respect the traditional April 1 deadline.

“Since mid-March, 30 to 50 inches of snow has fallen in the mountains,” said Chris Christopher, State Maintenance Engineer. Christopher said over the next several days, forecasts are predicting an additional 20 to 30 inches or more to fall.

“The new deadline gives motorists two more weekends to travel the passes and then hopefully the weather will return to more spring-like conditions,” said Christopher.

Washington is coordinating with Oregon on this issue. Oregon officials are also extending their April 1 deadline through midnight April 11. Idaho’s scheduled deadline is April 30.

Motorists can continue to use other approved traction tires past April 11. The alternative tires are defined as having at least an eighth of an inch of tread and are labeled “Mud and Snow,” “M+S,” “M/S,” or “All Season”. They can be used year-round, and almost all tires on the market meet these specifications. Drivers concerned about crossing the mountain passes should consider carrying chains.

Motorists cited for using studded tires after the April 11 deadline will receive a \$101 fine.

For more information about studded tire use in Washington, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/studtire/default.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/studtire/default.htm).

**\* In addition commercial motor vehicle drivers will be required to carry sufficient tire chains if traveling over routes outlined in the “Minimum Chain Requirement” brochure during the extension. Visit [www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/chainbw.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/chainbw.pdf)**

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